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**STEPHEN
KING**

**PETER
STRAUB**

THE

TALISMAN



**DEL REY
COMICS**

NO. 0 \$1.00

**FURTH
SHASTEEN
RUFFINO**

THE ROAD OF TRIALS

THE TALISMAN

THE ROAD OF TRIALS

STEPHEN KING and PETER STRAUB

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We want to know what you think about *The Talisman*.
Please email us at delreycomics@randomhouse.com.

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This issue of *The Talisman* marks the first-ever Del Rey Comic. It's only the beginning of what we hope will be much more to come.

Del Rey made its reputation by publishing bestselling, award-winning science fiction and fantasy for more than thirty years. We've also created the books that have expanded your favorite movie and game universes: *Star Wars* fiction and nonfiction, including the lavishly illustrated *The Complete Star Wars Encyclopedia*; the *Gears of War* novels; and *Halo: The Fall of Reach* and its sequels, to name just a few. We've taken you *Behind the Mask of Spider-Man* and far beyond, via many comics-related projects. And we've published Del Rey Manga for years. None of these would have been possible without staffers in every department who are devoted to the art of the fantastic in its many forms.

But at the end of the day, the simple answer to why we're doing this is that we love comics—and we hope that it shows. Let us know what you think at delreycomics@randomhouse.com.

The Del Rey Comics Team

1981, somewhere west
of New Hampshire

*Travellin Jack, ole Travellin Jack,
Got a far long way to go,
Longer way to come back.*

Jack had been six when
it really started...



...when the engine
that eventually pulled
him across two worlds
began to chug away...



*Bye, baby
bunting. Daddy's
gone a-hunting.*

Six, oh yes, Jacky was six,
and his daddy was alive...
his daddy was *alive*...









PRINCE
PHILIP?



THERE IS NO
NEED TO BOW,
MORGAN.

YES, MY
PRINCE.



YOU HAVE DONE
WELL THESE LAST
FEW YEARS.



MY FORTUNES
HAVE RISEN LIKE A
STAR OF EVIL OMEN,
OR SO THE QUEEN
BELIEVES.



SPEAK MORE
CAREFULLY, OLD
FRIEND. YOUR TONE
SMACKS OF
TREASON.



MY APOLOGIES,
MY LORD. I AM IN DEBT
TO YOU, AND TO YOUR
TWINNER, PHILIP
SAWYER.

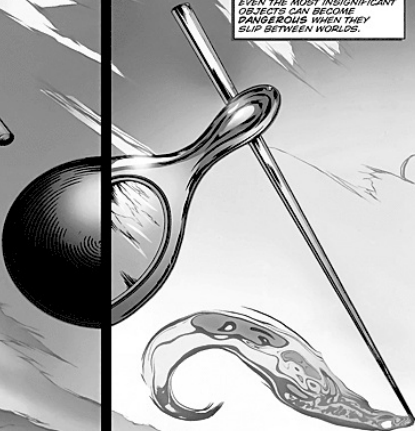


IF YOU TWO
HAD NOT TAUGHT
ME HOW TO TRAVEL,
I WOULD NEVER HAVE
ACCOMPLISHED
ANYTHING.





NOTHING REMAINS THE SAME WHEN IT MOVES FROM ONE WORLD TO THE OTHER, MORGAN. YOU KNOW THAT AS WELL AS I DO!



EVEN THE MOST INSIGNIFICANT OBJECTS CAN BECOME DANGEROUS WHEN THEY SLIP BETWEEN WORLDS.



IT WOULD BE MIRACULOUS!

NO, MORGAN! IT COULD BRING ABOUT THE END OF ALL THE WORLDS!

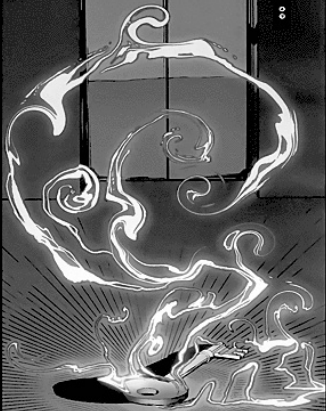


BUT THE TALISMAN, SIRE, DOES THAT NOT GIVE OFF A KIND OF ELECTR-

WHAT IF THAT WORLD'S
ELECTRICITY TRANSFORMED
AS IT TRAVELED?



AND WHAT IF THAT
ELECTRICAL MAGIC
INFECTED SOMETHING?



100

THE TALISMAN
WAS HIDDEN LONG
AGO, AND THAT IS
FOR THE BEST.



AS YOU
WISH, MY
PRINCE.



*The Offices of
Sawyer & Sloat,
Beverly Hills,
California*

SAWYER AND SLOAT TALENT AGENCY

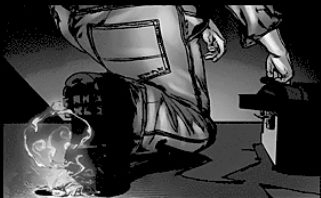
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Jacky was six, but even
he would have known that
Prince Philip was right.



Things do change
when they travel
from one world to
the next...

And not
all of them
change for
the better.



KABOOM



Near Tom
Woodbine's
hunting lodge

Blessington,
Utah

PHIL, I'M GLAD
YOU DIDN'T CANCEL
THIS YEAR, DESPITE
WHAT HAPPENED TO
JERRY BLEDSOE.

I'M
GLAD I
CAME.

COME ON, TOM.
BLEDSOE'S DEATH WAS
A FREAK ACCIDENT.
IT'S NOT LIKE WE
KILLED HIM.

Four months later...

SO JERRY'S DEATH
DIDN'T UPSET YOU,
MORGAN?

OF COURSE
IT DID. IT'S HARD
TO FIND GOOD
ELECTRICIANS
THESE DAYS.

The outposts of Orris

WHAT
HAPPENED HERE,
MORGAN?

Four moons later...

THESE
OUTPOSTS
HAVE BEEN
POISONED!

AYE, SIRE—
AND WE HAVE NOT
YET REACHED THE
BLASTED LANDS.







HOLD ON,
PHIL. WE'LL
BE AT THE
HOSPITAL
SOON!

TELL
LILY, TOM, TELL
LILY AND JACKY
THAT I LOVE
THEM...



A FURNACE
OF THE BLACK
HEART... MANNED
BY MUTANT
SLAVES!

AYE,
PRINCE. MY
SLAVES!



YOUR
SLAVES?!
PHILIP SAWYER
TRIED TO WARN
ME!

YES,
BUT PHILIP
SAWYER IS
DEAD...



AND
SO ARE
YOU!

AAHH!

1981, somewhere west
of New Hampshire

Jacky was six when
his daddy died.

Jacky was six, and the
monsters came for him...



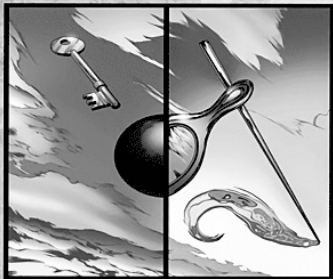
TO BE CONTINUED

"Extraordinary... makes your hair stand on end."

—*The Washington Post*, on the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *The Talisman*



The spellbinding saga of *The Talisman* begins anew with this heretofore untold tale of treachery and betrayal set in a dread land that could only have sprung from the imaginations of master storytellers Stephen King and Peter Straub.



The Road of Trials will continue with Issue #1, available November 18, 2009!

www.delreybooks.com

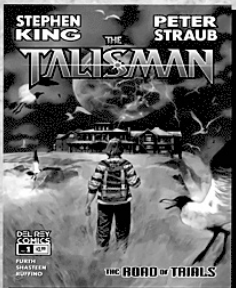
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Front-cover illustration:

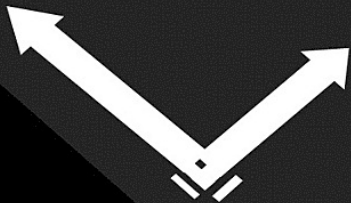
Massimo Carnevale

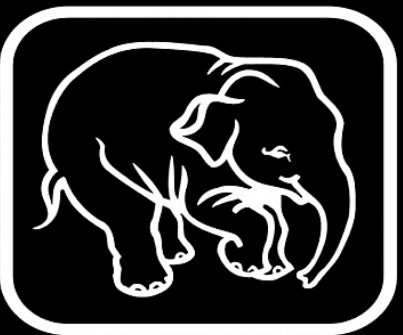
Center back-cover illustration:

Tony Shasteen and Nei Ruffino



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Scans 'n' edits

MINUTE



TERMINAL



NEW

TED TOONS